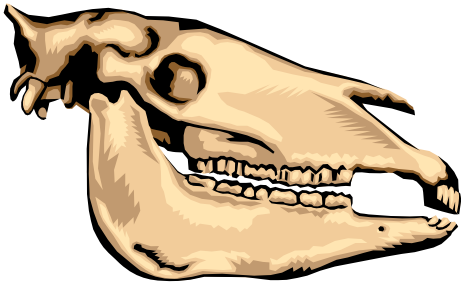


TEMKIT FOR CHILDREN

TEMKIT'S MISSION:

To provide Bible based, true reading material for children and youth.

Year 2 - 2nd Quarter - Issue #12



CREATION CORNER

STRATA: 2

Last week we learned that we can see layers in the rocks of the earth. We know these layers were made at the time of the flood and this is where the fossils came from that we find in those layers.

But evolutionists claim that the layers just gradually got laid down over millions of years and the animals in the lowest layers were the first 'primitive' ones that evolved. But they have a lot of problems with this theory.

These strata (layers) do not agree in other ways with evolutionary theory. Fossils are in the wrong place. Certain ones are found far below the strata where they were supposed first to have "evolved" into life. There are supposed to be 21 types of strata, in 12 major groups. Each is supposed to have taken millions of years to lay down, before the next was made. Yet, wherever we go throughout the world, we find that more than half of the strata are missing! That could not be possible if the evolutionary theory was true.

What actually happened was that the water washed sediment into an area, covered it with a wash of plants, covered that, and then some-

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thing else was washed in beside it or on top of it.

As we look at the strata, that is what we find. Nowhere is there a continuous layer; continuing on and on. It stops, starts, and changes into other kinds of layers.

In many places, layers have been buckled into folds. Some of these folded strata are small; others are massive folded mountains and cover miles in area. In other places, they angle downward into the earth or upward, breaking off as the sharp edge of high mountains. At times, rocks are bent into right angles by such buckling. The Flood and its after effects caused all this.

Then there are overthrusts. Evolutionists date every layer as "older" or "younger" than the others. But we find immense strata of rocks, which evolutionists call "older". On top of "younger" rock strata! All over the world, in every mountainous region, there are many examples of supposedly "old" strata on top of "younger" ones!

This is a big problem for these evolutionists, so they have to solve it. Instead of sitting down and saying, "You know, I guess we are

really wrong about this, these layers were made by the world-wide Flood so we better believe the Bible”, they have to make up fantastic stories about how these layers got mixed up like they are.

They call these situations “over-thrusts,” and they say that the giant masses of “younger” strata on top of “older” strata slid side-ways for 50, 100, or more miles to where they are now! Sometimes they “slid” uphill!

Many of these immense overthrust areas are hundreds and even thousands of square miles in size! Evolutionists have to make up these silly stories because they have to defend their theory about fossils. If they lose their fossil theory, they really have little left.

Did you know that, according to the evolution-ists, the famous Matterhorn, in the Swiss Alps, hopped over there from somewhere else? It is all “older” rock, which is on top of “younger” rock. Then there is the Mythen Peak in Switzerland. The evolutionary geologists tell us it ran there -all the way from Africa!

The Appalachians are an enormous mountain range, stretching from eastern Canada to central Alabama. Did you know that it climbed up out of the Atlantic Ocean basin and onto “younger” strata below it?

The truth is that this overthrust theory is fool-ishness. These are layers of fragile rock; massively weighted down. The strata would crumble if any attempt were made to move it from one place to another; so many fractures would be made. Yet scientists have analyzed it—and found that it is not fractured any more than other strata above or below it.

Man’s theories are never as accurate as God’s Inspired Word. You can trust the Bible. But beware of the theories of men; they are often wrong.

The Matterhorn, Glacier National Park, and the Appalachians are all areas that are supposed to have traveled there from some distant place. Have you ever seen a mountain get up and walk? I haven’t, and no one else ever has either!
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HISTORY

The History of Mohammed: 10

The Koran

In the year A.D. 633, when many of Mohammed’s earlier acquaintances had died, the Caliph Abu Bekr ordered Mohammed’s chief

scribe, Zaid ibn Thabit, to “search out the Koran and bring it together.” He gathered the fragments, says tradition, “from date leaves and tablets of white stone, and the breasts of men,” that is, from the dried rib bones of dead men, on which notes had been made. From Zaid’s completed manuscript, several copies were made. The entire book is a heap of confusion. We are not sure that Mohammed wanted all these scraps of notes included in a book. He never told anyone to do this.

In it we find procedures, stories, laws, proclamations of victory, treaties, appeals for funds, regulation of ritual, trade, finance. Many of them were momentary details, sometimes changed later.

The one hundred and fourteen chapters (Suras) are arranged with the longest ones first instead of the order they were written, which was unknown at that time. Since Mohammed had the most time to dictate notes in later life, the history of incidents from his life are in reverse—and the harshest part of the Koran is in front. The best part, consisting of small Suras, does not fill a lot of space at the back. All the Suras are supposed to be statements by ‘Allah’ or ‘Gabriel’ to Mohammed.

They talk a lot about hell and hell-fire. More than a hundred times, the Koran threatens with hell anyone who rejects Mohammed’s messages. ‘Hellfire will last forever and the drink of the damned will be boiling water and filth.’

Portrayals of heaven are just as vivid, but we will not quote them here since they are semi-pornographic. Each male will have seventy-two houris (women) to wait on him throughout eternity. Children will be born, who will never grow old.

Jews and Christians are condemned. After giving unbelievers time to accept Allah, enemy unbelievers were to be killed wherever found. “But be sure to give them time to accept the faith”. But Mohammed himself broke this rule.

It is stated that at least part of the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures are divinely inspired. ‘Of the one hundred and four revelations given to mankind, only four have been preserved: the Pentateuch to Moses, the Psalms to David, the Gospel to Jesus, and the Koran to Mohammed.’ The first three are corrupted and only the Koran is safe, and now replaces them. We are told that God did not really let Jesus die on the

cross.

Here are few other teachings: culled from Islamic writings, for which I could not find Koran references:

The Sabbath teaching was ruined, by transferring the day to Friday. Jesus did not die on the cross, only a phantom did. Against unbelievers who did not peaceably submit, a jihad (war) was to be proclaimed in the name of Allah. There are seven levels in hell, and all Christians and Jews will go into hell.

Satan has tried desperately to fool people by making counterfeit 'bibles' throughout the world. The Koran is one, then there are the ancient Hindu 'scriptures' the Bhagavad-Gita and the Upanishads, which are really only accounts of history or legend from ancient times. Then there is the Book of Mormon by Joseph Smith who was a lot like Mohammed in certain ways. Especially in the way that whenever he wanted to take somebody's wife, he would claim to have a vision that told him it was God's will for him to do it, and there are always some people who will believe anything so he got away with it.

Not one of these so-called 'sacred' writings can hold up to the Bible, but people who don't read or know the Bible are fooled. They just think that all these things are the same and good to read. Get to know about the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation and then you have something to share with others to show the Bible is true. None of them have anything even close to the wonders of Bible prophecy! = ^ .. ^ =

TRUE-STORY-TIME

Halloween: Nothing to Play With!

Halloween has now become almost the biggest celebration of the year. The only one that is still bigger at present is Christmas. Adults as well as children are going more fully into this 'Helliday' every year; with costume parties and dances and more and more of the ancient practices that were part of this satanic feast of the dead in ancient times.

Halloween, like all the holidays, came from paganism, but this one is especially dark as it was always a celebration of evil and death. Human sacrifices were offered to the devil by Druid priests in old Britain, and other Satan worshippers elsewhere. The terrible truth is that this is still happening, although hidden away in secrecy, it does happen. And because people are more

and more rejecting obedience to Jesus and going for sinful 'pleasures' it is happening more all the time.

Even more common is the torture and killing of animals, often stolen pets, as a sacrifice to devils. People who think such things cannot happen among us had better ask themselves why it is that many animal rescue organizations will not allow the adoption of pets, especially black cats, close to the time of Halloween. They KNOW it happens. I have videos of poor animal bodies found after such ceremonies.

But what if you say to me, well I would never do anything cruel or bad on that night; but I like to dress up and get candy, or go to a party and play weird games for fun. Perhaps you like to go see a local 'haunted house'? I have noticed more than ever that every little town or area seems to have haunted hay-rides, haunted barns or 'Spirit Walks'. They think it is 'just pretend', but Satan plays for keeps.

Every year some children are hurt or die because of getting poison or razor blades in treats. This is another way witches make offerings to Satan. Candy is harmful to you anyway, why risk your life to have a bad, hurtful thing and think it is a treat?

Young friends, who are you honouring when you take part in ANYTHING to do with Halloween? You are not honouring dear Jesus, Who came here and allowed Himself to be tortured to death by Satan and his followers, just so you can have LIFE if you choose His ways! Jesus is our Creator! He is the Lord of Life, joy and happiness. How can you think that anything that glorifies death and ugliness can be OK for a child of God to be involved in at all?

How it must hurt the tender heart of Jesus when He sees people who claim to be His children, honouring death and the devil! How the tears of the angels must flow! I am sure on that night that the joy and music of heaven is hushed in sorrow at the sight of what goes on among people who claim to serve God.

I have often thought as I see people dressed up in ugly masks or makeup; how would they feel if when they woke up the next day, they really looked like that? I see ladies in places of business, like the banks even, and they have spiders hanging from their ears! And yet if these same ladies even saw a tiny real spider walking innocently across their desk, they would scream

in terror!

What is happening to people that even in hospitals, and serious work-places, adults are going to work dressed as witches and devils? Do they not know that this brings the power of Satan close to them to harm and destroy them? Satan doesn't play games, children. He wants to take control of your life to lead you into more and more terrible things until you too, would be able to torture to death a pet or even a child and laugh at it.

'Well, what if I just dress up like a cat or a lion or something?' In Satan worship the changing of people into animals, called 'shape-shifting' by the American Indian witch doctors, is very much a part of demon worship. Satan doesn't care at all how he gets you, if he can lure you to do something that is connected with worshipping him, he can say, "See, this person really wants to belong to me, they like the dark side, you must let me have them! Then the holy angels have to back up and Satan has more control of you, soon he can get you to do some other wicked thing, bit by bit you are led to leave the Lord Jesus and serve Satan and you will not realize it until it is too late.

I want to tell those of you who get scared at all the wicked things you see and hear about around Halloween, if you don't take part in it and you stay away from everything to do with it, mighty angels protect you and you are safe in Jesus. Remember to pray at this time for God's protection for people and animals and ask Jesus to come soon and stop this wickedness and take His children home!

(Note to adults: If you are planning to honour Halloween by any event in your home or church—Shame on you!! unless it is a prayer meeting to plead with God to push back the tide of evil!)
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STORY LESSON

The Seeing Eye: 2

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them." Proverbs 20:12

Do you know where tears come from? There is a little gland snugly placed away in the socket of the eye just above the eyeball, which makes tears in the same way that the salivary glands make saliva. It is called the tear gland. The gland usually makes just enough tears to keep the eye

moist. There are times when it makes more, as when something gets into the eye, or when we suffer pain or feel unhappy. Then the tears flow into a little tube, the tear duct, which runs down into the nose from the inner corner of the eye. When the tears are formed so fast that they cannot all get away through this tube, they run out and flow down the cheek.

Little muscles that are fastened to the eyeball let us turn the eye in almost every direction.

How does the eye see? It is hard to understand, but we can learn something about it. Let's do an experiment. Take a magnifying glass, hold it before a window and place a piece of white paper behind it on the side away from the window. If you move the glass back and forth till an image is focused on the paper, you will be able to see a picture on the paper of whatever is outside the window. The picture made by the lens looks exactly like the view out-of-doors, except that it is upside down. This is one of the interesting things that a lens does.

The lens of the eye acts like the glass lens. It makes a picture upon the retina of everything we see. The nerves in the retina transfer the picture spread out at the back of the eyeball to the brain. This is how we see. There is a mystery here, because just like with the glass lens, the picture on the retina is up-side-down, but we see right way up!

Did you ever look through bin-oculars or a telescope? You must focus on the object you are looking at by making the telescope a little longer or shorter. The eye also has to be changed a little when we look from near to distant objects. Look out of the window at a tree a long way off. Now place a pencil between the eyes and the tree. You can scarcely see the pencil while you look closely at the tree, and if you look at the pencil you cannot see the tree clearly.

There is a little muscle in the eye that makes the change needed to see close objects as well as those far-ther away. When people grow old the little muscles cannot do this so well, so old people sometimes have to put on glasses to see objects near by and read.

To keep the eyes healthy we need to eat a good diet. A high fat diet has been proven to cause eye damage. The tiny capillaries that bring the blood to the retina can become plugged, causing retina injury. Vitamin A found in orange and

yellow fruits and vegetables is good for your eyes.

Always be careful to protect the eyes from things that might get in and hurt them and from sharp objects. When working with sanders and saws or around any flying debris, it is a good idea to wear safety goggles. Sight is a precious gift God has given us and should be protected.

MISSION STORY

Pauliasi Bunoa

AMONG THOSE WHO attended the meetings in Suva Vou, there was also a Fijian Wesleyan minister by the name of Pauliasi Bunoa. He could remember the first Wesleyan missionaries visiting and holding meetings in his father's home, when he was just seven years old. His people were, of course, all cannibals, but the gospel of the love of God won its way into the hearts of a number of them and they openly chose to be Christians.

Immediately the other islanders threatened to kill them. So Bunoa's father and his Christian friends had to flee for their lives to some mountain caves. They hid there for a year till the anger of the others cooled down and they dared to return to their families again. Bunoa himself waited till he was full grown, then he declared himself to be a Christian. When he was baptized he added the new name Pauliasi (Paul) to his old name Bunoa. He went to a Christian school, married a Christian young woman, and became a Christian worker. A few years later he was ordained and sent as a missionary to the cannibals off the coast of New Guinea. There he remained for ten years, but fever and sickness claimed his children one by one, and last of all, his faithful wife, so that he was left all alone, and finally returned to Fiji.

At Suva Vou he met a Christian widow who had one daughter. They were married and he was put in charge of a district. His headquarters were in Suva, and the Wesleyan church in Suva Vou was in his district, so he was at the meetings that John Fulton and Calvin Parker held there. At this time he was in his late fifties, and had three lovely girls in his family. He was amazed at the way Bible prophecy was being fulfilled in world events. He was astonished at the new light that shone from the Word of God. And he wondered why his missionaries hadn't taught

these things. He thought that the teaching of the Lotu Savasava was right, but he was not ready to take his stand when Ratu Ambrose did.

He needed more time to study and to make sure. So one evening he visited with John Fulton and said, "Misi Fulitoni, have you any tracts or books in Fijian so that I could study more?"

"Oh, Pauliasi," replied John, "I'm sorry but we have no tracts or books yet. Right now I am doing my best to prepare a tract on the true Bible Sabbath. But my Fijian is so faulty. I need a Fijian scholar to correct my Fijian words."

"Then, Misi Fulitoni," said Pauliasi, "would you let me correct your writing? I don't know much English, but I am a graduate from the Fijian Seminary and I would be glad to put your words into good Fijian."

"Why, Pauliasi!" exclaimed John Fulton in surprise. "I have been praying for someone to come who would do that. And now God has answered my prayers."

So Pauliasi came to John's home and carefully smoothed out John's awkward sentences. As he did so his eyes brightened. He asked many questions, then wrote quickly in correct Fijian. Pauliasi was an expert scholar indeed, and soon John's tract was completed in fluent Fijian. But still Pauliasi continued to ask questions, so John decided to write some more and make it bigger. Day after day they studied. Day after day Pauliasi asked questions and wrote down the answers in fluent Fijian. But still Pauliasi asked questions about the Sabbath. So John decided to make it even bigger, and by the time it was finished they had a very good booklet on the Sabbath and Satan's attempt to change it from the seventh day to Sunday. They named it Singa ni Vakathengu ("Day of Rest"), and mailed the precious manuscript to the Pacific Press in California, where it was printed and returned to Fiji.

By this time Pauliasi found himself in an awkward situation. Here he was, still a Wesleyan minister, keeping company with Seventh-day Adventists. He couldn't belong to both churches! What could he do? He went to John Fulton and asked, "Do you need me anymore, Misi Fulitoni, now that the tract is finished?"

"Indeed I do, Pauliasi," replied John. "Now I want to make a small book of Bible studies. And then I want to translate a large book called The Great Controversy."

A book! This was just what he wanted. It took only a second for Pauliasi to make up his mind, "I will be very glad to keep on helping you." So a happy and helpful friendship was formed between the two men and their families.



Year 2: 2nd Quarter:

"FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES"

**WEEKLY BIBLE LESSON 10: "ELIJAH &
THE PRIESTS OF BAAL"**

For our Bible lessons we are going to use the King James Version of the Bible. Just like the boys and girls used to use to learn to read from in the pioneer days.

There will be some texts to look up for each day and you should practice your memory verse until you can say it without looking. Don't forget to learn the text too.

MEMORY VERSE: "And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God." 1 Kings 18:39

Sunday

Text: 1 Kings 18:21 "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

After 3 ½ years of no rain or dew, the land of Israel was like a dessert. Then God sent Elijah to Ahab to call a showdown. "Have the people and all the priests of Baal, meet me on Mount Carmel" Elijah commanded and King Ahab, even though he hated the prophet of God, quickly obeyed, from fear of something worse happening, and messengers hurried through the land to call the people to the appointment.

There were altars to Baal on this mountain and before the drought it had been a most beautiful place, where the idol worshippers liked to have their holiday feasts in the groves of trees. Now the trees had no leaves and were withered. Way up on the mountain was an old altar to the God of heaven, long broken down and unused.

God had been greatly dishonoured by the people as they left serving God and worshipped Baal, and by the wicked things done in the groves on Carmel. He chose this area to show His power to them.

Early on the morning of the chosen day, the hosts of apostate Israel, in eager expectancy, gather near the top of the mountain. Jezebel's prophets march up in imposing array. In regal pomp the king appears and takes his position at the head of the priests, and the idol worshippers shout his welcome.

But there is dread in the hearts of the priests as they remember that at the word of the prophet, the land of Israel for three years and a half has had no dew or rain. They feel sure some fearful crisis is at hand. The gods in whom they have trusted have been unable to prove Elijah a false prophet. For all these months they tried all the tricks they knew, but their frantic cries, their prayers, their tears, their magic rituals, their revolting ceremonies, their costly and ceaseless sacrifices all had done no good at all.

Thought - All the so-called power of heathen religions and witchcraft really only comes from Satan and is used to trick people into thinking they have secret powers.

Monday

Text: 1 Kings 18:22 "Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men."

I want you to notice something about the verse in yesterdays reading, it says, "The people answered him not a word". Now don't you think that some of those people knew down in their hearts that all this Baal worship and all the holidays and feasts and stuff that they were doing in worshipping Baal was wrong? Don't you think that down in their hearts they knew that only the God of Heaven was really worthy of their worship and that in turning from what was right and doing the heathen things they were

sinning against the Creator of heaven and earth?

I am sure that many of them knew this, in fact maybe most of them did, but they would not stand up and speak out to honour the name of God! They were cowards and just followed their leaders even in what they knew was wrong. We must not be like this!

Now look at Elijah; Facing King Ahab and the false prophets, and surrounded by all the people gathered there, Elijah stands, the only one who is standing for the honor of Jehovah. The whole kingdom has tried to find him for all these months to kill him, and here he is, apparently unarmed before the king of Israel, the prophets of Baal, the men of war, and the surrounding thousands. But Elijah is not alone. Above and around him are the protecting hosts of heaven, angels that excel in strength.

Unashamed, unafraid, the prophet stands before the crowd, fully aware of his task to carry out the divine command. Anxiously the people wait for him to speak. Looking first upon the broken-down altar of Jehovah, and then at the people, Elijah cries out in clear, trumpet-like tones, "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow Him: but if Baal, then follow him."

The people answer him not a word. Not one in that large crowd dares to show loyalty to Jehovah. Like a dark cloud, deception and blindness had spread over Israel. Not all at once had this fatal apostasy closed about them, but gradually, as from time to time they had failed to pay attention to the words of warning and reproof that the Lord sent them. Each going away from right doing, each refusal to repent, had deepened their guilt and driven them farther from Heaven. And now, in this crisis, they still refused to take their stand for God.

Thought - This can happen to us, if we choose to ignore what the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy tells us is right, we will end up like Israel, doing wickedly until finally God destroyed that kingdom. People who won't stand up and speak for truth in such times, but just keep quiet are disgusting to God!

Tuesday

Text: 1 Kings 18:23,24 "Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on

wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: And call ye on the name of your gods, and I will call on the name of the LORD: and the God that answereth by fire, let him be God. And all the people answered and said, It is well spoken."

Read this story carefully and notice that Elijah gave them every advantage. He would leave them with no chance to say they had been treated unfairly. He let them have first chance, he let them choose the animal they wanted for their offering, and prepare it in any way they wanted to.

The test Elijah tells them about is so fair and so right that they all have to agree to it. The prophets of Baal dare not refuse to make the trial or they would show clearly to the people that they were frauds.

Outwardly bold and defiant, but with terror in their guilty hearts, the false priests prepare their altar, laying on the wood and the victim; and then they begin their incantations. Their shrill cries echo and re-echo through the forests and the surrounding heights, as they call on the name of their god, saying, "O Baal, hear us." The priests gather about their altar, and with leaping and writhing and screaming, with tearing of hair and cutting of flesh, they beseech their god to help them.

The morning passes, noon comes, and yet there is no evidence that Baal hears the cries of his deluded followers. There is no voice, no reply to their frantic prayers. No fire comes from Baal.

Now Elijah knows he has to watch them carefully, as if they could somehow cheat and set the fire themselves, they would! It is interesting that witches believe they can bring down fire, of course Satan can do this for them, but on mount Carmel, Satan was prevented from doing this. Satan has no power against God's true people, unless he can get them to disobey God, and then he can lead them into evil.

Thought - God has had heroes, and He has them now—those who, like Joseph and Elijah and Daniel, are not ashamed to say that they are His peculiar people.

Wednesday

Text: 1 Kings 18:27-29 "And it came to pass at

noon, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them. And it came to pass, when midday was past, and they prophesied until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that there was neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded."

At last, their voices hoarse from shouting, their clothes stained with blood from self-made wounds, the priests become desperate. In frenzy they now mingle with their pleading, terrible cursing of their sun-god, and Elijah still watches intently for any trick.

Evening draws on. The prophets of Baal are weary, faint, confused. One suggests one thing, and another something else, until finally they cease their efforts. Their shrieks and curses no longer sound over Carmel. In despair they give up the contest.

All day long the people have watched the baffled priests leaping round the altar, as if they would grasp the burning rays of the sun to serve their purpose. They have looked with horror on them cutting themselves with knives, and have had time to think about how foolish idol worship is. Many in the throng are weary of the exhibitions of demonism, and they now await with deepest interest the movements of Elijah.

It is the hour of the evening sacrifice, and Elijah tells the people, "Come near unto me." As they tremblingly draw near, he turns to the broken-down altar where once men worshiped the God of heaven, and repairs it. To him this heap of ruins is more precious than all the fancy altars of heathendom. He carefully repairs it following the rules God had given for His altars.

The priests of Baal watch quietly, they hate Elijah worse than ever, but they are helpless. The calm, quiet ways of the prophet of God are so different from the wild frenzy of the followers of Baal.

But now Elijah does even more; he digs a trench around the altar and then he puts the wood on it and prepares the bullock and puts the pieces on the wood. The he did something that seemed crazy! He told the people to pour

water over it all; four barrels of water, and he told them to do it three times, until the trench was full and everything was dripping wet. Humanly, there was no way any fire could burn that offering.

Elijah was making sure that no one could say that he cheated and set fire to the altar himself.

Thought - The ways of those who leave the God of Heaven are loud and flashy but the ways of God are calm and quiet.

Thursday

Text: 1 Kings 18:36-38 "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench."

Elijah calls upon the people to humble their hearts and turn to the God of their fathers, that the curse upon the land of Israel may be removed. Then, bowing reverently before the unseen God, he raises his hands toward heaven and offers a simple prayer. Baal's priests have screamed and foamed and leaped, from early morning until late in the afternoon; but as Elijah prays, no senseless shrieks resound over Carmel's height. He prays as if he knows God is there, a witness to the scene, a listener to his appeal. The prophets of Baal have prayed wildly, without making sense. Elijah prays simply and earnestly, asking God to show His superiority over Baal, that Israel may be led to turn to Him.

Silence, solemnly, rests upon all. The priests of Baal tremble with terror, aware of their guilt in deceiving the people.

Suddenly, flames of fire, like brilliant flashes of lightning, descend from heaven upon the altar, burning up the sacrifice, the water in the trench, and even the stones of the altar. The brightness of the blaze lights up the mountain

and dazzles the eyes of the multitude. In the valleys below, where many are watching the movements of those above, the fire is clearly seen coming down from heaven, and all are amazed at the sight. It is like the pillar of fire that at the Red Sea separated the children of Israel from the Egyptian host.

The people fall on their faces in awe before the unseen God. They dare not continue to look at the Heaven-sent fire. They fear that they themselves will be burned up for their sins. They cry out together, "The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God." The cry sounds over the mountain and echoes in the plain below.

At last Israel sees how greatly they have dishonored God. The character of Baal worship, in contrast with the reasonable service required by the true God, stands fully revealed. The people recognize God's justice and mercy in withholding the dew and the rain until they have been brought to confess His name. They are ready now to admit that the God of Elijah is above every idol.

Thought - The ways of the heathen are foolish, but when people want their own way and refuse to obey God, they can't see the truth any more.

Friday

Text: 1 Kings 18:41,42 "And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain. So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees."

After this, Elijah ordered the prophets of Baal to all be executed. You see, they knew what they were doing was wrong; they knew they were lying to the people to get the people to serve the idols.

After this was over, Elijah told Ahab to hurry up and eat his picnic lunch because God was soon going to send a great rain, so things could grow again. Now when he said this there was not a cloud in the sky.

Now Elijah goes to the top of the mountain and begins to pray for rain. Notice he just doesn't say, "Oh, God will now send rain, I don't have to do anything about it." No, he goes and asks for the desperately needed rain. He prays and then asks his servant to go look and see if any clouds were coming. The servant said no, there

was nothing.

Again Elijah prayed and again sent his servant to see whether there were any visible sign that God had heard his prayer. Each time the servant returned with the word, "There is nothing." The prophet did not become impatient or lose faith, but continued his earnest pleading. Six times the servant returned with the word that there was no sign of rain. Elijah did not give up and prayed again and sent him forth once more; and this time the servant said, "Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand."

He did not wait for the whole sky to grow dark, he knew by faith God was answering his prayer. Quickly Elijah sent his servant to Ahab with the message, "Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not."

It was getting dark and the rainstorm burst upon the land. Ahab had not time to get home before it hit and now, God gave special strength to Elijah and he ran before the king's chariot guiding him safely to the gate of the city.

Thought - Even though he had just been used by God to perform a wonderful miracle, the Prophet did not refuse to turn around and do the work of a common servant. = ^ .. ^ =

